

CT Trails Day Walks and Paddle in Mansfield on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6

Mansfield will host four walks and a paddle on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6 as part of CT Trails Day. Come visit the Town of Mansfield and explore its extensive local and state trails and waterways.

Saturday, June 5:

Mansfield Hollow State Park/Nipmuck Trail from 9:15 am to 2:30 pm. Join Debbie Tedford and Connie Rokicki for a 9-mile hike from Puddin Lane to Mansfield Hollow on the blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail. The adventure will cross over a variety of terrains. Bring water and snacks. Meet at Mansfield Hollow State Park hiker parking lot (0.9 miles north of Route 195 on Bassetts Bridge Road at 9:15 am). Polite leashed dogs welcome. Optional UConn Dairy Bar stop after hike. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, contact Debbie Tedford at 860.373.8573.

Smart Growth Walk at 10 am. Walk of future Storrs Center downtown site and Whetten Woods. The Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc., with Joshua's Trust, will lead an approximately one mile walk of the future Storrs Center downtown and the Whetten Woods trail located on open space adjacent to the Storrs Center site. Easy pace over fairly flat terrain, woods, and parking lot. Meet behind Starbucks at 1244 Storrs Road/Route 195. Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is recommended. For more information, contact Cynthia van Zelm at mdp@mansfieldct.org or 860.429.2740.

Paddle at River Park from 10 am to 12 pm. Take a family cruise on the Willimantic River. This easy flatwater trip for canoes and kayaks will go from River Park to Eagleville Lake. Bring your own boat or rent a kayak from the Mansfield Community Center for a nominal fee. Life jackets are required. Meet Larry Diamond at River Park (Plains Road, off Route 32). Heavy rain cancels. For more information contact Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield Parks Coordinator at kaufmanjs@mansfieldct.org, or 860.429.3015, ext. 204.

Sunday, June 6:

Family Hike at Mansfield Hollow State Park from 1 pm to 4 pm. The Friends of Mansfield Hollow are sponsoring a 4-mile hike following the yellow/ski trail where it joins with the blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail. The hike crosses the Fenton River over one historic bridge, and travels back on the Fenton River Trail after crossing another historic bridge. Meet leader David Morris at the picnic area of the State Park (Bassetts Bridge Road, 1 mile north of Route 195 intersection).

Heavy rain cancels until Sunday, June 13 at 1 pm. For more information contact Betty Robinson at pbrobinson@snet.net, or 860.429.3206.

Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve Hike from 2 pm to 4 pm. This 2-mile hike will be a casual walk, stopping to see the many wildflowers along the way. An opening at the top of a cliff will reveal excellent views of most of southern Storrs and beyond. Adventure seekers can also walk to the cliff base to observe interesting rock-dwelling plants. Meet Susan and Tom Harrington in the parking lot behind the Mansfield Historical Society building (Route 195, south of the UConn campus). Heavy rain cancels. For more information, contact Susan or Tom Harrington at hoopoe@sbcglobal.net, or 860.429.6257.

Connecticut Trails Day has been coordinated by the Connecticut Forest Park Association since 1993. For more information about the Association or CT Trails Day, see the Association's website at www.ctwoodlands.org.